

of the application has been deleted. This paragraph, which states that the above-cited application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/510,862, is being deleted because a claim of continuation-in-part status is not being made at the present time. An executed declaration is submitted herewith that does not contain a claim of continuation-in-part status from U.S. Serial No. 09/510,862. Claim 9 was canceled to avoid extra claims fees. Care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new matter. All of the changes made in this Preliminary Amendment are made without prejudice, so that the matter deleted may be reintroduced as necessary for prosecution of the application.

Summary and Conclusion:

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE SPECIFICATION".

It is submitted that Applicant has provided a new and unique BOTTLING PLANT AND METHOD OF OPERATING A BOTTLING PLANT AND A BOTTLING PLANT WITH SECTIONS FOR STABILIZING THE BOTTLED PRODUCT. It is submitted that the claims are fully distinguishable over the prior art. Therefore, it is requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued at an early date.

If mailed, I, the person signing this certification below, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with

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the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date indicated in the certification of mailing on the transmittal letter sent herewith, or if facsimile transmitted, I, the person signing this certification below, hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated in the certification of facsimile transmission on the transmittal letter which is being facsimile transmitted herewith.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE SPECIFICATION

In the specification:

The first paragraph after the title of the application on page 1 has been deleted as follows:

~~CONTINUING APPLICATION DATA~~

~~— This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/510,862, filed on February 23, 2000, which claims priority from Federal Republic of Germany Patent Application No. 199 08 035.6 filed February 24, 1999.~~